

INFO Nr 1**CHOICE OF COURSES**

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As an exchange student (except Swiss mobility) in Fribourg, you have access - on condition of eventual specific admission criteria for certain courses - to the entire list of courses offered by the Faculty of Law, as well as by the other faculties of the University of Fribourg. In order to complete your study program in Fribourg, you may also follow courses at either the University of Bern or the University of Neuchâtel as allowed by the BENEFRU Convention. Your choice of courses also depends in priority on the learning agreement that you have determined with your home university.

Courses at the Faculty of Law

According to the guidelines known as Bologna, the curriculum of law is subdivided in two parts: the Bachelor of Law and the Master of Law.

Students must register for the Bachelor of Law courses and Master of Law semester courses via MyUnifr. All [information](#) is published on the Internet. Registration for block courses, seminars and special courses is described below according to the type of course.

Bachelor of Law level

The Bachelor of Law level constitutes the three first years of law studies. All of the courses at the bachelor level are offered in French and German. You may thus choose to follow courses either exclusively in French, exclusively in German, or in both languages. The exams are in the languages that the courses are taught in. The exercises make up an integral part of the course.

Exchange students who are only in Fribourg for one semester and have followed annual courses may only pass exams – except some exceptions – that cover the subject taught during the semester that they were in attendance in Fribourg. In this case, if the exam is passed, half of the ECTS credits are granted.

Inscription for the courses and for the exams is compulsory.

The details on all the [bachelor level courses](#) are published on Internet. The courses are introduced in the language they are taught in.

The [timetables in French](#) and the [timetables in German](#) are available on Internet.

Written essays (proséminaire / Proseminar)

If they so desire, students have the possibility to write one or several papers in the field of their choice. An accepted *proséminaire / Proseminar* paper does not replace an exam. An accepted *proséminaire / Proseminar* paper allows the attainment of 3 ECTS.

Procedure for the writing of a *proséminaire / Proseminar* paper:

- Chose the field of law on which one wishes to write a paper;
- Verify the requirements to observe for the writing of the paper;
([Directive No 3 concernant les travaux écrits](#))
- Check also the requirements to observe for the writing of the paper set by the professor, on his or her homepage;
- Contact the chair of the professor concerned;
- Write the paper and refer to professor's directives;
- Render the paper within three months of the reception of the chosen theme.

The *proséminaire / Proseminar* papers are not graded.

Master of Law level

The Master of Law constitutes the second part of the law studies. Courses at the master of law level are offered either in French or in German, and sometimes in both languages. Some courses are also offered in English. The exams are in principle given in the language the course was taught in. Master courses are in depth courses.

The details of all the [courses offered at the master level](#) are published on Internet. The courses are introduced in the language they are taught in. There are several types of courses at the Master level.

Block courses

Introduction

A block course is a course taught during three consecutive weeks. The block courses are open to Exchange students, with certain conditions mentioned below.

Attention: the number of places is limited. Participation in one or more courses is subject to prerequisite inscription. An inscription does not guarantee the attainment of a place in the chosen course.

Course organisation

The block courses take place at the beginning of each semester.

Mind the schedules: Block courses are full time for the three weeks (Monday to Friday, 8h00 - 19h00). It is only possible to follow one block course at a time. It is not possible to follow other courses at the same time as a block course. No other master course is given in parallel.

Conditions for inscription to a block course (Exchange students)

- Basic legal knowledge of the chosen field is required.
- The student has to be proficient in either written and spoken French, German, or English depending on the chosen block course.
- The student is required to respond to potential specified prerequisites mentioned in the course description. (i.e. English proficiency).
- By receiving a place in the course the **student commits to active participation**. The participation is controlled by the professors.
- **The student also commits to present him / herself at the final exam.**

Registration procedure

- At the time of registering, if the student so wishes, he or she can mention two choices: one main choice and a second choice in case the course of first choice is full. The first and second choice does not guarantee the student a place in the courses.
- Course registration for block courses in the autumn semester takes place in July.
- Course registration for block courses in the spring semester takes place in November.
- The number of student per block courses is limited to 25.
- The block courses only take place if at least 10 students are registered.
- **For exchange students the registration can only be done by the registration form sent in due time by the Faculty of Law's Erasmus and International Relations Office. Incomplete registrations as well as late registrations cannot be considered.**
- **No course withdrawals are possible once the student has received place confirmation of the class.**

Substantiated absences, validity of a block course in case of absences

- A block course cannot be recognized in case of 3 full days or more of absence from the course.
- In case of illness or accident, a doctor's certificate must be presented after 2 days of absence from the course. **The doctor's certificate has to be sent to: University of Fribourg, The Faculty of Law's Erasmus and International Relations Office, Av. de l'Europe 20, CH-1700 Fribourg.**

Exams

- **The registration to a block course includes the registration to the exam.**
- Every block course is endorsed by a grade.
- The passed exam of a block course equates to 5 ECTS,
- In case of failure: Exams of a block course cannot be repeated.
- No demands for exceptions concerning the exams (i.e. duration, mode, date) will be taken in consideration.

Semester courses

Introduction

A semester course is taught during the semester in the form of three hours per week. The semester courses are open to exchange students.

Semester courses start on the fourth week of the semester.

- Unlimited space available.
- An active course participation is indispensable.

Conditions of participation in one or more semester courses

- The student has to be proficient in either written and spoken French, German or English depending on the chosen course.
- The student is required to respond to potential specified prerequisites mentioned in the course description. (i.e. English proficiency)

Exams

- Every semester course is endorsed by a grade.
- The registration to the exams takes place during the official exam registration periods.
- The exams take place during the official exam sessions.
- The passed exam of a semester course equates to 5 ECTS.
- Exams of a semester course can be repeated only once.
- Exchange students are exempt from exam fees.

Special credits

The Faculty of Law offers several special events known as «special credits» such as Moot Courts, competitions, and special seminars in Switzerland and Europe. The majority of those events are open to exchange students and allow to acquire ECTS-points.

Attention, certain programmed events are not graded. They may simply say « passed » or « failed ». For certain students, that can make a difference for their class choice since some home universities require grades in order for the credits to be recognized.

Most events with special credits require prior registration. Please consult the information online. The list of the special credits events is available on the Faculty of Law's Website <http://www3.unifr.ch/ius/fr/etudes/coursexamens/cours/>

Seminars (written papers)

A personal and active participation of the students, as well as the writing of a paper is required from the students participating in a seminar. Some seminars involve several fields of Law. The number of places available is limited.

Conditions for inscription to a seminar (Exchange students)

- Basic legal knowledge of the chosen field is required.
- The student has to be proficient in either, written and spoken French, German, or English depending on the chosen seminar.
- The student is required to respond to potential specified prerequisites mentioned in the seminar description. (i.e. English proficiency).
- By receiving a place in the seminar the **student commits to active participation**.
- **The student also commits to write the paper.**

([Directive No 3 concernant les travaux écrits](#))

Registration procedure

Students must refer to the information set in the [course descriptions](#):

Exams

- Every seminar is endorsed by a grade.
- The passed seminar equates to 5 ECTS,
- In case of failure the required work to pass a seminar usually cannot be repeated.